

SECRET

Legislative Counsel

16 April 1951

Comptroller

Report on H. R. 245

We have reviewed H. R. 245 in accordance with your request of 12 April 1951 and believe that the Agency's report on the bill should strongly recommend its passage by Congress. H. R. 245 would repeal Section 1212 of the General Appropriation Act, 1951, (Public Law 759, 81st Congress) which prohibits payment after 30 June 1951 of unused annual leave accumulated by civilian employees during calendar year 1950.

Because of the present emergency, the workload of the Agency has increased to such an extent that the granting prior to 30 June 1951 of unused annual leave accumulated during calendar year 1950 would seriously impair the efficiency of many operations. A recent survey disclosed that a total of 167,088 hours, or 20,886 days, of leave earned in calendar year 1950 by vouchered and unvouchered employees remained unused as of February, 1951. Under Section 1212 of the General Appropriation Act, 1951, this leave must be taken prior to 30 June 1951 or be forfeited by the employees. This places a severe burden on the Agency at a time when the maximum production possible is required of each employee.

We are also concerned that Section 1212 will undoubtedly result in inequitable treatment of the many loyal employees who, in the interest of the urgent need for work accomplishment will voluntarily forego their leave and forfeit it as of 30 June 1951. Although it is the policy of the agency to assure that employees are afforded an opportunity to avail themselves of earned annual leave, many are forfeiting their leave as evidenced by the fact that a total of 12,834 hours, or 1,604 days, of leave was forfeited by vouchered and unvouchered employees of the Agency on 31 December 1950. Although it is not possible to estimate accurately at this time the amount of leave that will be forfeited as of 30 June 1951 if Section 1212 is not repealed, it is believed that it will be considerable, especially among supervisory personnel.

Therefore, due to the requirements of the national emergency which could not be foreseen at the time of passage of Section 1212, repeal of the Section, as provided by H. R. 245, is recommended in the interest of the operating efficiency of the Agency and to assure equitable treatment for all employees. No amendment to the language of the proposed Bill is believed necessary as it appears adequate to accomplish the intended purpose.

E. R. SAUNDERS

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